

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CURACA 00583 141811Z

ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 ARA-14 EUR-12 ISO-00 CAB-05 CIAE-00
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L-03 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /054 W
-----089884 150335Z /15

R 111945Z AUG 78
FM AMCONSUL CURACAO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4005
INFO AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY BONN

UNCLAS CURACAO 0583

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, NL, NA, GW

SUBJECT: ICT - LTU CONTRACT AGREEMENT WILL BE HONORED
BY NETHERLANDS ANTILLES

REF: (A) THE HAGUE 4418 (B) CURACAO A-19 OF 8/10/78 (NOTAL)

IN STRONGLY WORDED INTERVIEW WITH LOCAL PAPER, MINISTER FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT MAURITS LARMONIE RESPONDED TO NETHERLANDS STATE SECRETARY NELLIE SMIT'S AIRPORT PRESS CONFERENCE STATEMENTS OF AUGUST 8 (THE HAGUE 4418). MINISTER LARMONIE STATED ICT-LTU AGREEMENT WAS A BINDING ONE YEAR CONTRACT AND THAT IT WOULD BE HONORED BY NETHERLANDS ANTILLES. HE STATED THAT HE HAS NO SYMPATHY FOR KLM; ON TWO PREVIOUS OCCASIONS KLM HAS IGNORED ANTILLEAN REQUESTS FOR A PROPOSAL TO DEVELOP MID-ATLANTIC ROUTE WITH CHARTER FARES. HE STATED THAT KLM HAS HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO DO THIS FOR YEARS BUT HAS FAILED TO ACT. COMMENTING ON MRS. SMIT'S REQUEST FOR JOINT ALM-KLM PROPOSAL COMPETITIVE WITH ICT-LTU AGREEMENT, MINISTER LARMONIE QUESTIONED THE TIMING OF SUCH A PROPOSAL. KLM HAS CONSISTENTLY STATED THAT REDUCED FARES AND INCREASED TRAFFIC WERE NOT POSSIBLE. WHY SUDDENLY, WITHIN TWO MONTHS WILL IT BE POSSIBLE? HE FURTHER QUESTIONED THE EFFICACY OF ANY
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FURTHER INVESTIGATION. THE NAG ORIGINALLY SOUGHT AN AGREEMENT THAT ENTAILED NO RISK TO THE GOVERNMENT AND DID NOT REQUIRE FINANCIAL GUARANTEES. THE ICT-LTU AGREEMENT MEETS THESE TWO BASIC REQUIREMENTS.
VESSEY

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